

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 SCA-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 SPM-01 /159 W

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R 251039Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1640

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHARE T

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, IS, UR, RO

SUBJ: FORECAST OF 1974 IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

1. IN MEETING FEB 22 WITH EMBOFF, DEPUTY DIRECTOR DOMINITZ OF JEWISH AGENCY IMMIGRATION DEPT CONFIRMED RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT JEWISH AGENCY HAD MADE FORECAST OF 70,000 IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL WORLDWIDE IN 1974--AS COMPARED TO ACTUAL TOTAL OF 54,886 IN 1973.

2. NOTING THERE WAS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOPES AND GOALS, DOMINITZ CITED EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO INCREASE IMMIGRATION FROM AREAS OTHER THAN EAST EUROPE. JEWISH AGENCY GOAL IS TO BOOST THIS IMMIGRATION TO AROUND 25,000--COMPARED TO 17,680 IN 1973. THIS HE CONCEDED WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE.

3. ATTAINMENT OF 70,000 FORECAST ALSO BASED ON EXPECTED ARRIVAL OF SOME 45,000 IMMIGRANTS FROM EAST EUROPE, MAINLY SOVIET
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UNION--AS COMPARED TO 37,206 IN 1973 (OF WHICH 33,477

CAME FROM SOVIET UNION). DOMINITZ STATED THAT HE HAD NO PARTICULAR BASIS FOR ANTICIPATING SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN IMMIGRATION FROM SOVIET UNION OR EAST EUROPE, BUT JEWISH AGENCY WAS HOPING THAT SOVIET UNION WOULD PERMIT SOME 35,000 - 40,000 JEWS TO EMIGRATE DURING 1974.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, EAST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR DAGAN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY TOLD US HE BELIEVED IMMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA IN 1974 WOULD BE UP TO TEN THOUSAND, RISING FROM FOUR THOUSAND IN 1973. STRESSING NEED TO PROTECT THE INFORMATION, HE SAID ROMANIA AND ISRAEL HAD WORKED OUT ANNUAL UNDERSTANDING SINCE LATE 1960S ON NUMBER OF ROMANIANS TO BE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL IN GIVEN YEAR. GOR USUALLY BROKE AGREEMENT. AGREED FIGURE FOR 1974, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS TEN THOUSAND. GOR PERFORMANCE PROSPECTS WERE MUCH BETTER IN 1974 ACCORDING TO DAGAN BECAUSE OF ROMANIAN FEARS OF JACKSON AMENDMENT. ALTHOUGH ROMANIA DID NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT LOSS OF MFN STATUS WITH US BECAUSE IT BELONGED TO GATT, IT DID EYE ANXIOUSLY SUBSTANTIAL USG CREDITS. DAGAN ALSO MENTIONED THAT ISRAEL RECENTLY RAISED QUESTION WITH GOR OF RESUMED TRANSIT THROUGH BUCHAREST OF SOVIET IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL, INTERRUPTED LAST SEPTEMBER BY GOR AS RESULT OF EMBARRASSMENT OVER REVELATIONS CONNECTED WITH SCHOENAU AFFAIR. ALTHOUGH GOR SO FAR WAS NONCOMMITTAL, DAGAN SAID GOI WAS MODERATELY OPTIMISTIC THAT BUCHAREST TRANSIT COULD BE QUIETLY RESUMED.

5. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE JEWISH AGENCY FORECASTS INFLATED, IN PART FOR FUND-RAISING REASONS. IMMIGRATION FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES IN 1974 LIKELY TO BE LESS THAN 1973 OR ONLY marginally INCREASED, BARRING UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MIGHT ENCOURAGE EMIGRATION OF JEWS. JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM EAST EUROPE FLUCTUATES AND IS SUBJECT TO POLICY OF GOVERNMENTS IN THAT REGION, BUT IF DAGAN'S PREDICTION OF ADDITIONAL SIX THOUSAND FROM ROMANIA PROVES CORRECT, AGENCY'S TARGET IN THIS REGION MAY BE REACHED.
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